

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 3 as follows:

To test BER for the WDM optical communication system, the optical communication channel BER test is repeated for each optical communication channel  $i$ , in the optical communication system, where  $i \in (1, N)$ . If the measured BER for each of the optical communication channels is less than the specified BER value, then the optical system meets its BER requirements and passes the BER test. If one or more of the optical communication channels has a measured BER which is greater than the specified BER value, then corrective measures are required, including troubleshooting and repairing the optical transmitter/receiver pair 120/130 for the optical communication channels which failed the BER test.